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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/778,247	02/06/2001	Osamu Ogiyama	9281-3919	6377

7590 08/26/2004
Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610

EXAMINER

GARCIA, GABRIEL I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/778,247

Applicant(s)

OGIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Gabriel I Garcia

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4 and 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ota et al. (6,404,508).

With regard to claim 1, Ota et al. teaches an image forming method used for a color printer (e.g. col. 1, lines 13-17) in which two gradation pattern images based on different two color input information are laid one over the other to record a color image (e.g. abstract, col. 3, lines 1-29) wherein two colors, namely a primary color for recording a first gradation pattern image and a secondary color for recording a second gradation pattern image to be recorded on a primary color recorded image, are selected from among a plurality of color

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inks (e.g. abstract , col. 2, line 61 thru col. 3, line 29), a first screen angle to be used for primary color recording is determined and the first gradation pattern image is recorded, and then a second screen angle to be used for recording secondary color recording is determined based on the first screen angle and the second gradation pattern image is recorded (e.g. abstract and col. 2, line 61 thru col. 3, line 29, col. 6, lines 23-64).

With regard to claim 2, , Ota et al. teaches wherein angular difference between the first screen angle and the second screen angle is adjusted in a range from 20 degrees to 40 degrees (reads on col. 2, lines 47-57).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takemoto (6,172,767) teaches a multi-color image forming apparatus and multi-color image forming method.

Sonoda et al. (6,778,298) teaches an apparatus for recording high quality graduated images.

Toyomura et al. (5,696,603) teaches an image formation apparatus having a gradation control unit.

Wadle et al. (2003/0053100 A1) teaches a multistage screening with screens of any desired screen resolution and screen angles.

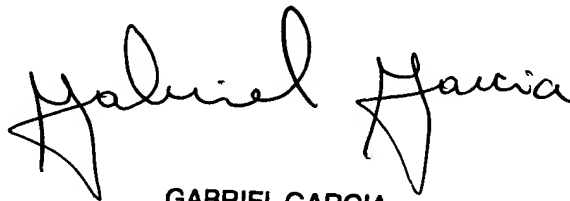
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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to **Gabriel I. Garcia** whose telephone number is (703) 305-8751. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. The fax phone number for official or informal faxes for this group is (703) 872-9306 .

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Gabriel I. Garcia
Primary Examiner
August 21 2004



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER